



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1988

PHONE INQUIRIES

- *about these statistics*—contact Mr. C. Chan on Canberra (062) 52 6561 or any ABS State office.
- *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.

MAIL INQUIRIES

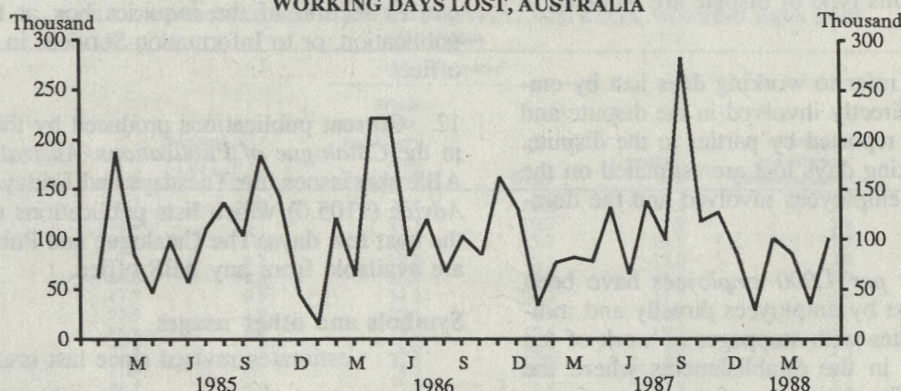
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MAIN FEATURES WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



In May 1988, there were 101,000 working days lost by 68,500 employees in 159 disputes compared with 35,400 working days lost by 20,800 employees in 107 disputes in April 1988.

Of the 101,000 working days lost in May 1988, 5,500 were lost due to a number of disputes over National Wage Case second-tier claims.

Of the 159 disputes in May 1988, 21 had more than 1,000 working days lost.

In the 12 months ended May 1988, 1,266,200 working days were lost compared with 1,149,700 and 1,420,400 working days lost in the 12 months ended May 1987 and May 1986 respectively.

For the 12 months ended May 1988, the number of working days lost per thousand employees was highest in New South Wales (293) and lowest in South Australia (90).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in *all* industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. De-

tails shown in this publication refer to all disputes *in progress* during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express an grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those who ceased work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Surveys.

Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

Other ABS publications

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Trade Union Statistics, Australia, 30 June 1986 (6323.0)

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Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly

Unpublished statistics

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Symbols and other usages

r estimates revised since last issue

13. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1977	March	148	54.8	63.6	81.5
	April	117	62.3	66.3	77.6
	May	126	80.3	106.7	131.5
	June	126	35.8	41.4	65.2
	July	117	49.7	51.5	137.8
	August	109	39.5	52.1	98.8
	September	114	60.3	84.9	282.6
	October	138	60.6	64.5	117.6
	November	164	86.0	97.8	126.7
	December	97	34.8	49.7	86.5
1978	January	81	12.2	12.6	29.2
	February	138	44.0	58.1	100.5
	March	168	34.7	41.9	84.8
	April	100	19.8	20.8	35.4
	May	147	57.3	68.5	101.0
Five months ended—					
May 1986	1,818	1,840	684.2	690.4	1,420.4
May 1987	1,639	1,651	574.7	591.0	1,149.7
May 1988	1,499	1,518	534.8	548.8	1,266.2
December 1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
December 1986	1,680	1,687	673.9	691.7	1,390.7
December 1987	1,471	1,475	602.8	605.3	1,316.4

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other		Other				
1977	March	6.7	4.0	20.8	12.2	26.2	5.1	81.5
	April	15.2	3.7	27.3	10.2	7.9	5.9	77.6
	May	30.1	1.8	39.5	25.7	19.5	5.7	131.5
	June	7.3	4.7	12.4	15.1	15.0	3.0	65.2
	July	35.3	10.3	23.9	14.8	43.0	2.2	137.8
	August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	3.6	98.8
	September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	282.6
	October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	117.6
	November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	4.2	126.7
	December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	26.5	86.5
1978	January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	1.5	29.2
	February	47.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	3.4	100.5
	March	34.0	10.3	3.8	8.8	14.9	4.4	84.8
	April	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.7	16.4	2.9	35.4
	May	27.9	3.9	19.2	5.0	29.4	3.0	101.0
Five months ended—								
May 1986	366.2	134.2	154.1	184.3	181.0	161.4	239.2	1,420.4
May 1987	171.5	148.6	176.9	228.6	116.4	48.5	259.3	1,149.7
May 1988	330.1	60.1	139.0	150.5	199.6	85.6	301.3	1,266.2
December 1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
December 1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
December 1987	291.1	55.7	199.6	195.5	202.4	92.5	279.6	1,316.4

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(a)
1977							
March	41.2	20.9	2.4	2.2	11.3	1.3	81.5
April	52.6	11.0	3.4	1.5	3.9	2.1	77.6
May	84.2	27.6	7.7	5.5	2.9	2.6	131.5
June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	1.3	65.2
July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	7.8	137.8
August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	2.1	98.8
September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	282.6
October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	117.6
November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	1.3	126.7
December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	5.4	86.5
1978							
January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	0.3	29.2
February	62.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	0.9	100.5
March	26.5	13.2	21.4	0.7	17.2	3.4	84.8
April	10.7	11.9	3.3	1.3	5.3	1.5	35.4
May	39.3	5.8	45.8	2.6	5.1	0.9	101.0
Five months ended—							
May 1986	571.5	392.3	243.2	42.0	109.3	25.3	1,420.4
1987	498.1	351.9	95.6	29.9	129.5	25.1	1,149.7
1988	655.0	248.7	147.5	45.1	122.0	28.4	1,266.2
December 1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7
1987	741.5	289.3	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0	1,316.4

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

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4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express an grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.

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July	117	135	49.7	51.5	137.8
August	109	122	39.5	52.1	98.8
September	114	127	60.3	84.9	282.6
October	138	151	60.6	64.5	117.6
November	164	178	86.0	97.8	126.7
December	97	115	34.8	49.7	86.5
1988 January	81	86	12.2	12.6	29.2
February	138	148	44.0	58.1	100.5
March	168	187	34.7	41.9	84.8
April	100	107	19.8	20.8	35.4
May	147	159	57.3	68.5	101.0
Twelve months ended—					
May 1986	1,818	1,840	684.2	690.4	1,420.4
1987	1,639	1,651	574.7	591.0	1,149.7
1988	1,499	1,518	534.8	548.8	1,266.2
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July	35.3	10.3	23.9	14.8	43.0	2.2	8.4	137.8
August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	3.6	23.7	98.8
September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	108.9	282.6
October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	25.1	117.6
November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	4.2	54.7	126.7
December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	26.5	14.6	86.5
1988 January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	1.5	6.6	29.2
February	47.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	3.4	15.1	100.5
March	34.0	10.3	3.8	8.8	14.9	4.4	8.6	84.8
April	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.7	16.4	2.9	15.1	35.4
May	27.9	3.9	19.2	5.0	29.4	3.0	12.6	101.0
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May 1986	366.2	134.2	154.1	184.3	181.0	161.4	239.2	1,420.4
1987	171.5	148.6	176.9	228.6	116.4	48.5	259.3	1,149.7
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1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
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April	52.6	11.0	3.4	1.5	3.9	2.1	77.6
May	84.2	27.6	7.7	5.5	2.9	2.6	131.5
June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	1.3	65.2
July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	7.8	137.8
August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	2.1	98.8
September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	282.6
October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	117.6
November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	1.3	126.7
December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	5.4	86.5
1988 January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	0.3	29.2
February	62.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	0.9	100.5
March	26.5	13.2	21.4	0.7	17.2	3.4	84.8
April	110.7	11.9	3.3	1.3	5.3	1.5	35.4
May	39.3	5.8	45.8	2.6	5.1	0.9	101.0
Twelve months ended—							
May 1986	571.5	392.3	243.2	42.0	109.3	25.3	1,420.4
1987	498.1	351.9	29.9	29.9	129.5	25.1	1,149.7
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1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7
1987	741.5	289.3	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0	1,316.4

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing				Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)	All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
	Coal	Other						
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242
Twelve months ended—								
1986—								
May	10,900	2,388	361	299	704	382	63	253
1987—								
May	5,103	2,890	424	363	453	113	65	199
June	5,128	2,415	432	365	476	98	65	195
July	5,658	2,071	468	339	617	80	63	198
August	6,046	1,571	485	355	648	83	67	203
September	8,793	1,401	512	290	770	91	90	233
October	8,757	1,427	497	281	829	149	91	238
November	8,884	1,283	474	287	808	158	84	231
December	8,902	1,069	479	305	773	217	69	223
1988—								
January	9,243	818	474	302	771	213	69	222
February	9,829	982	481	286	764	216	70	225
March	10,774	1,091	440	280	716	214	71	225
April	10,487	1,081	385	266	707	208	72	218
May	10,501	1,118	337	233	739	202	73	212

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

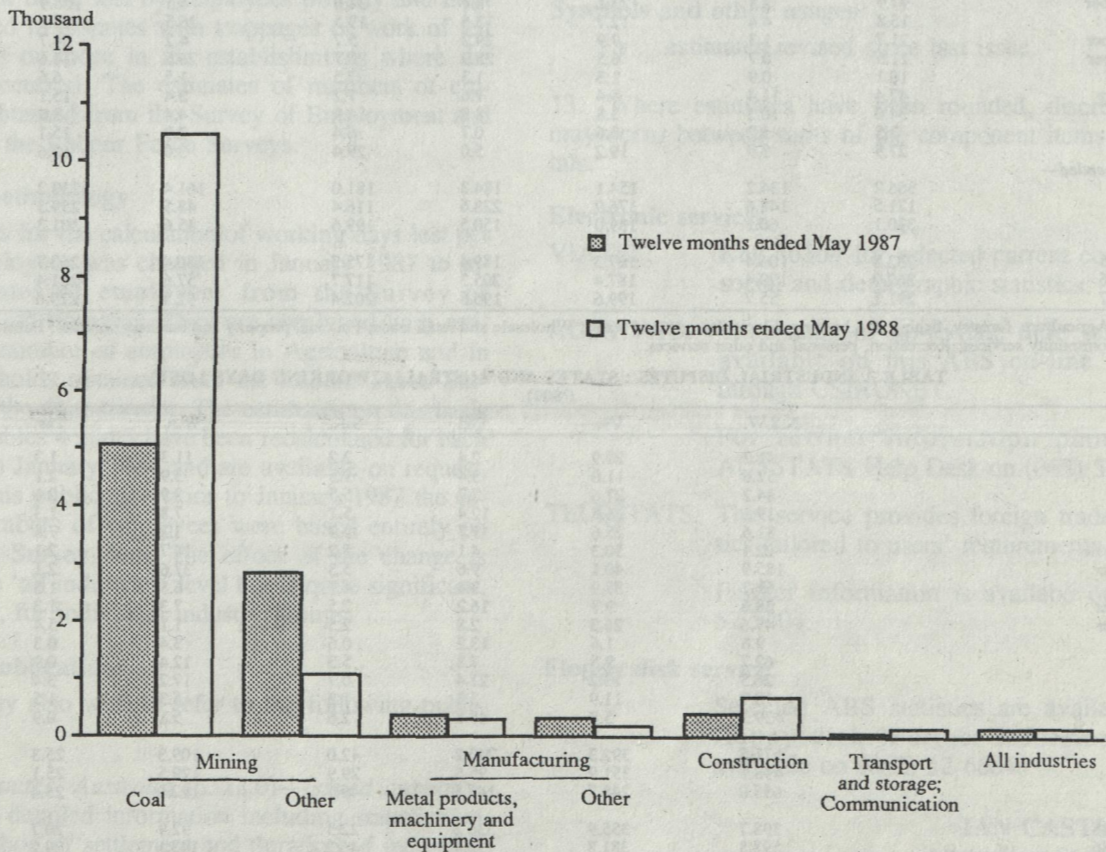


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1984	357	132	302	55	256	350	248
1985	209	236	411	47	187	138	228
1986	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
Twelve months ended—							
1986—							
May	296	253	293	88	214	168	253
1987—							
May	251	220	114	61	241	161	199
June	232	222	125	70	249	118	195
July	226	208	110	83	231	150	198
August	229	229	106	88	199	159	203
September	299	235	94	92	243	162	233
October	309	240	91	96	242	160	238
November	328	198	90	93	235	148	231
December	340	164	87	91	212	177	223
1988—							
January	336	162	101	90	192	177	222
February	343	156	107	100	208	180	225
March	335	151	129	97	218	194	225
April	r315	151	129	96	r222	r191	r218
May	293	139	173	90	227	181	212

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

